

New York's Summer Reading

Vast Quantities of Books, Mostly Novels, Needed for Yachts, Steamers and Country Houses

Booksellers will tell you that the individual expenditures by many New Yorkers for summer literature are far in excess of the sums certain of the earlier noted writers, Charles Dickens for example, spent in a year for the family living expenses. In the aggregate the amount of money spent for summer reading is enormous. Booksellers hint that but for this a good many novels which give large rewards to their authors might never be published at all. In the summer season about 90 per cent. of the purchasers at some stores ask for fiction, and the lighter the quality the better it is apt to sell.



A CARLOAD OF SUMMER FICTION.

Romantic love story was told between covers. It may be that her judgment was based on having just completed a tale of nineteen love stories to a woman going past her salad days and of not romantic appearance who ordered the books sent to a suburb. The novels were all selected from the marked down tables; none was a late publication, but each was a thriller in its line.

"Nineteen is not a large order," the saleswoman said. "We often sell as many as fifty books to one person, who will distribute half of them, maybe, among friends who are sailing or going to the country."

A portly, prosperous looking man apparently in a hurry brushed past and made straight for the new books tables. He stayed about ten minutes and went out faster than he came in, leaving the store better off by the price of twenty-four books.

"It is the unexpected that is likely to happen here at this time of year," said the manager, looking after him. "Take it all in all women are our best customers. Every once in a while, though, a man who has had a good day in Wall Street or looks as if he had breezed in here on his way home, selects thirty dollars worth or so of new books, bundles them into his car or taxi and is off."

"No, I can't think of any who had a list with him or who seemed to be shopping for any one. These men just take the notion to buy some new books and leave the selection to us. Occasionally they include a volume of essays or of biography, but mostly it is fiction that is wanted."

"It is a common experience here to sell \$100 worth of summer reading matter to one customer. Why, if we didn't take two or three orders like that a day we wouldn't think we were doing any business. In some cases we don't know who will get most of these books, in other cases we have the distributing of them in parcels of from six to ten to persons leaving New

York. In every case only the very latest works of fiction are chosen.

"The other day I went to see a relative off for Europe and met on the steamer a young woman I knew who had about half a trunk full of books sent to her by friends who know that she is an omnivorous reader while at sea. This fashion of speeding departing friends with books helps the New York booksellers in summer. Few of the books sent on such occasions are ever taken from the steamer. Deckhands and other employees will get most of them; one or two may get into the ship's library."

"An old New Yorker who dropped in to see me the other day was inclined to gripe over the wasteful extravagance as he thought of this generation in spending lavishly for fiction no one wants to save in his library."

"My granddaughter," he complained,



IN THE NEW THOUGHT CORNER.

the May sales. July is pretty nearly equal to June, and August drops a good deal where distinctively summer literature is concerned. Of late I have noticed that it is the younger women who are the more discriminating buyers of books. Girls just graduated from schools and colleges. The mothers buy and read and lend to friends a certain book because some one told them it was a good story. The daughters have opinions of their own and are usually far more critical as to quality.

"At one time very little business was done in children's books in summer, but of late there has been a change in this respect. Amusing stories for children are asked for every day all summer long. It is not grown folks alone who have the fiction habit. I account for this increased demand by the increasing numbers of New Yorkers who have a country home not far off and who send to the city for reading matter for the children; not nature books or anything like that, but fiction."

In a certain bookstore an illustration was afforded of the extent to which customers rely on the judgment of sales people. Except in the new thought section customers came and went briskly. In some cases they might have been asking for and getting a time-table for all the care they bestowed on the transaction.

Around the new thought books bound in pocket editions with cheerfully decorated covers a few women lingered thoughtfully putting down, taking up, turning a leaf here and there before buying a copy or two. The salesman stood at attention, but his opinion was not asked as to the relative interest of the books. In the fiction section, which at this time of year occupies the banner position and overflows into spaces where



TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE FOR HIM.

serious booklovers feel that it has no business to be, it was quite different. There the salesmen were exercising their best vocabulary for the benefit of customers.

"Madam," one assured a maternally looking woman with a beribbon, as he

spread his hands over the top of a tall pile of novels of his own selecting, "these are among the very latest and they are all interesting. Shall I send them?"

The lady, who had done no more than glance at the title as each book was laid before her, had her own outside and would take the books along, she said, at which a small messenger appeared, shouldered the pile and marched ahead to the side-

Half a dozen novels with plenty of adventure in them, "was the demand of a middle aged man, who consulted his watch as he spoke."

Immediately half a dozen and more were spread out before him.

"I guess that's all right so long as you know what I want," he said. "Come to think of it, put in two volumes of travel—nothing dull, mind you—and send them up by this afternoon."

"Some folks believe that men in general don't care for novels," a book expert connected with the store commented, "whereas three-fourths of those I meet are as fond of novels as women are, only they like a different sort. Women do on the average novel as a rule, and prefer novels including plenty of action and adventure."

"Strange to say it is oftener young than middle aged men who call for books of travel of course, but I have never heard of a man who reads little else but books of travel in summer."

"Both men and women buy more summer books than any other time of the year," said that several hundred new books are



SHE BOUGHT NINETEEN LOVE STORIES.

sent to one and another customer in a summer is simply to state a fact. It is an up to date manifestation of the book business contingent largely on the multiplication of country houses, house parties and European trips.

"Personally I can say we owe a large percentage of our summer sales to the logic of house parties. In many cases we have a standing order to send to the country house once a week three, four or six new books, fiction of course. The books must be absolutely new, that is, we are not often at a loss."

"These books are intended for the guests rooms. For a guest to arrive and find a book she had read at the last place listed on the table in her room is what the fashionable hostess to-day tries to guard against. The selections are left entirely to us, the only stipulation being that the books are just off the press."

"Similarly when we are ordered, as happens several times a month, perhaps by these customers, to make up a box of books, four, six or eight, to send to a steamer or to a private yacht, the choice of the books is left to us. There must be new. That is all the orders we get. And so careful must we be in most cases on this score that if we have the required number of books two days old we would not call week old books new."

"If, as occasionally happens, a customer designates what books are to go in the box voyage parcel we are careful to substitute another book for one named if we happen to know that the person to whom they are going has a duplicate of it or is likely to have one."

"Fifty books is an ordinary number to send to any country house during the summer, and I wouldn't go any where in a case of house parties."

Athletics and Dancing Combined for Men

Out on the gymnasium floor stood a group of strapping young fellows clad in scant white duck, their feet thrust into pliable white canvas shoes. In front of them, mounted on a battered oak table, stood a young man with a lithe, muscular body and an air of alert authority.

The group fixed its eyes upon him. He nodded to a pianist, who struck into a vivacious two step, and then instructor and class sprang into a series of flying dance movements which made each of them look as if he were a Mercury poised on one winged foot.

"Leap—hop—step—leap!" came the orders from the instructor as he danced. "Step—leap—hop—step," and the group of young fellows leaped and stepped and sprang and swayed in splendid rhythm.

Suddenly as the music reached the end of the movement the whole class came to a halt in the tense, unmistakable posture of a man on the point of batting a baseball. Then the dance was repeated, and closed with a catching posture, again with a pitching posture. Presently a new series began, and the postures were those of wrestling or swimming or runners or discus and javelin throwers, always preceded by the vigorous dance steps.

And none of it was in the least feminine; folk dance movement which has been adopted in the public schools and gymnasiums, the visits of the superb Russian men dancers and the opening of various schools of special dancing have broken down to a great extent the reluctance of young men to indulge in anything so feminine as feature dancing.

"Of course the work has to be done slowly in the gymnasium. At first the fellows did not take to it at all, but by beginning it as a modified or rather an elaborated form of calisthenics we got started. Then it had to be understood that it was for the purpose of developing some particular athletic ability."

"In the dance which is called the athletic jubilee the dance steps lead up to gymnastic movements and ensemble work slightly resembling the acrobatic. Gradually the chaps began to accept straight dancing just as dancing and now they frankly revel in the snappy Russian folk dances and especially in the athletic pageant or dance of the sports, which you have just seen. They like that because it is an expression in dance form of all the masculine sports, a dance which women could scarcely perform if they tried."

"One difficulty we had with the men was in getting them to work in twos. They

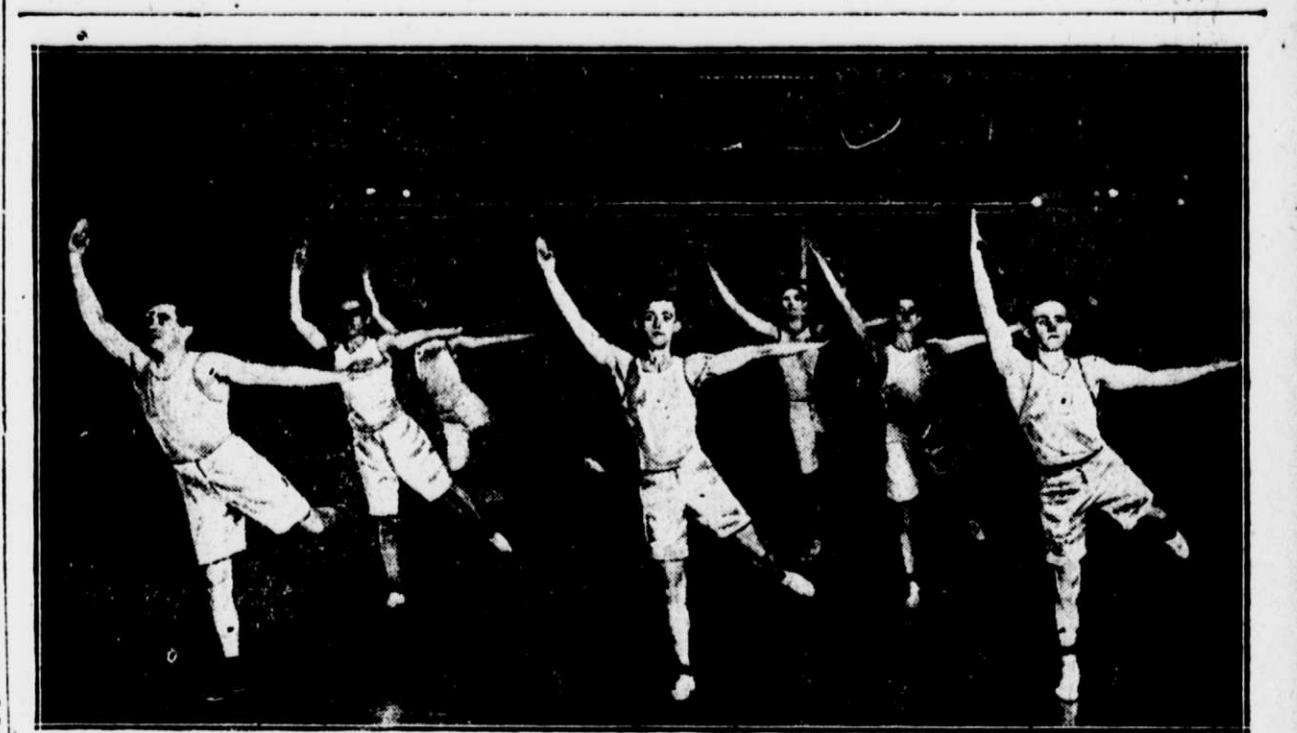
and songs. It was a great success. The men wore Greek tunics at that performance, but in the gymnasium they wear track suits as a general thing."

When Mr. Caskey was asked how and when he became interested in dancing for men, he gave way to reminiscences and to mirth.

"Well," he laughed, "my first impression of the dance for anybody or in any form was one of utter horror. In my callow youth and my earliest Y. M. C. A. days I got hold of a tract entitled 'From the Dance Hall to Hell.'"

"Its lurid language effectually convinced me that any one who danced would go straight to perdition. With the fervor of an ascetic I swore that I would never dance. It was a painfully distorted view of course, but there have been many distorted views which we have had to outgrow in the last few years."

"For a long time I shunned dancing as I would a plague. Then I began to see its place in the world, its place as a wholesome, natural recreation and as a form of physical training, more effective perhaps than any other, since a vigorous athletic dance brings into play nearly every muscle in the body. I saw that a normal enjoyment of dancing meant a healthy mind and a healthy body."



DANCE STEP IN THE ATHLETIC PAGEANT FOR MEN.

mind that. It was dancing, but it was essentially masculine from start to finish. There was not a suggestion of airy grace; there was more than a suggestion of strength and rhythm and of iron muscles under excellent control.

It was George M. Caskey, training his evening class in athletic dancing in the gymnasium of the Twenty-third street Young Men's Christian Association building. Mr. Caskey is an ardent exponent of the dance as a form of wholesome masculine exercise and athletics, and he has his reasons.

"To begin with," he said after the performance, "dancing for men is not a new idea. It is a revival. The Greek youths danced as simply and unconsciously as the maidens, and they danced not always with the maidens, as our modern fellows do, but among themselves singly and in groups."

"It was only with the advent of the court dances and square dances of medieval times that the art of dancing died out so far as the men were concerned unless the women were concerned also. Gradually dancing became regarded as a feminine pastime, a pretty accomplishment, and a man would as soon be caught stealing as dancing by himself or with his fellows."

"The last few years, however, have seen a great change in this regard. The

would dance in groups, but when it came to dancing in pairs, especially when they had to come in contact with each other, they did not like it. This was obviated by inventing the wrestling series, in which they had no objection to clinching."

"How did you come to invent these dances for men?" Mr. Caskey was asked.

"The athletic pageant was arranged a year or two ago as a celebration of the dedication of the new gymnasium at the Y. M. C. A. training school in Springfield, Mass. We wanted to have some sort of performance which should weave together all the athletics that would find their home in the new gymnasium. Finally, in cooperation with Prof. F. S. Hyde of the department of English and music of the training school, the pageant was carefully worked out. Prof. Hyde arranged the music and I planned the dances."

"First there would be a song by the glee club praising some particular sport—running, for example—and then the band would play the music through and after that the fellows would give the dance embodying the running postures. The glee club sang again, the band played and the class gave the archery series."

"The aquatic series, the boxing and wrestling series and the field and baseball series followed, interspersed with music

"There is no more sane and natural form of exercise than the rhythmic buoyant movements of the dance, performed with the vigor which men throw into it. The men accepted these gymnastic dances at first because they embodied masculine athletics and sports, but what they really enjoy about them is the rhythmic motion; there can be no doubt of that."

Mr. Caskey's innovation in gymnasium work has been enormously popular. The dancing classes are not held until 9 o'clock or so in the evening. At first they were attended only by the men who had been at work upon parallel bars, vaulting horses or flying rings and who remained a while to watch the dancing and one by one to join in.

Then the men who had been coming late in the afternoon for their exercise began to change over to the evening hour, in order to get the athletic dancing. At last men who had rarely come at all, since pulling monotonous chest weights or swinging clubs from a sense of duty had pulled upon them, began dropping in on dancing nights. Now the dancing is the most popular and best attended work in the gymnasium, and the men are beginning to practice some of the more intricate and difficult Russian dances. These are particularly appropriate for men, as they are accentuated by brisk stamping and bold, vigorous lunges.



WRESTLING POSTURE EMBODIED IN AN ATHLETIC DANCE FOR MEN.

THE FOREHEAD AND THE HAT

A SMOOTH BROW NEEDED IF THE HAT BRIM IS TURNED UP.

White Satin Treatment for the White Satin Forehead—How to Expose the Brow and at the Same Time Conceal One's Years—New Fads in Massage.

"Hats that turn up in front force a woman to admit every year of her age," declared a woman who trains faces. "They may be very becoming, but the circumstances must be right for them."

"A woman must be very sure of her brow if she wears such a hat. She must be positive that there are no worry lines and no care wrinkles on her forehead. She must be free from the habit of making grimaces and her brow must have a clear, smooth surface."

"If she is sure of her brow she can put on a hat that is lifted smartly in front and go forth and face the world boldly. She has nothing to fear from close inspection. But if her forehead is not all that it used to be let her beware of a hat whose brim turns up in front, for it will reveal all the defects of her brow."

"The French woman is very clever in this respect. She wears hats that either shade the brow or expose it, according to the day and her own fancy; also according to her own feelings. On the days when she does not feel quite up to the mark she hides her brow. On other days she shows it."

"Her hat has a brim that accommodates itself to the situation. It is made of flexible straw which can be slightly bent and hold its shape. This means that it can be pushed up in front when the forehead is smooth and fair, and that it can be

turned down when there is a frown or a wrinkle.

"The reversible hat is another resource, but of course these things are mere makeshifts. The forehead should be made pretty so that any kind of hat may be worn. There are various ways of doing this. The Bernhardt method is the most effective."

"In the morning, when a woman's hair is dressed, the forehead receives special attention. The hair is ruffled, but it is with studied abandon. It is well brushed and dressed, and then it is curled until the whole head lies in ripples. After this the hairpins are pulled out and the hair is tossed. The pins are then put back and the curls pulled out with the fingers. Finally there are dozens of little hairpin curls set into the coiffure here and there. The result is the prettiest head that could be imagined. The effect is that of youth. The forehead is so concealed that none of its wrinkles show."

"This way of treating the forehead is compatible with the wearing of a hat that turns up almost any way. The hat can be put on over this coiffure, and it will look chic. But there are those who want the St. Cecilia forehead, which is the brow that is as smooth as white satin. This can be obtained, but it is at great expense of time and endeavor. One must work at it constantly. The materials fortunately are not expensive."

"For this satiny forehead one must have a strip of white satin two inches wide and a piece of linen of the same width. The linen is stretched over the forehead and the band of satin is smoothly laid over it. This is worn night and day and the wrinkles are pressed out."

"There are foreheads which need to be sweated as well as massaged. For these the strip of linen is dipped in hot water and tied over the forehead. Over this

is put a band of flannel. This is worn over night. In the morning, the skin must be massaged.

"Massaging the forehead with the finger tips is another way of smoothing the brow. There are persons who like to massage with lard; others prefer unsalted butter. Most people have their favorite brand of cold cream. The favored massage of the present summer is with buttermilk. The oils are so well taken out of it that it does not make the forehead greasy, and yet it lubricates the skin and gives it nourishment."

"If the woman who contemplates wearing a hat that turns up in front will look at her face in the glass she will probably observe a few things like the following:

"Her forehead will show little lines running up and down over the nose and between the eyes. These up and down wrinkles are fatal to beauty in the forehead."

"Her second blemish will be the lines that run horizontally all the way across the brow. These are called the lines of melancholy, because women who are sad always have them."

"Then there are the worry wrinkles, which lie all around the temples. Women who have these are unfortunate, because they distinctly mark old age, but they are easily disguised."

"All forehead wrinkles are subject to certain rules of treatment. Some of them are these:

"One must rub across the wrinkles. "The touch must be very light and soft so as not to injure the skin. "Not more than five minutes at a time must be spent upon them."

"By observing these rules all forehead wrinkles can be removed. But there are other ways of treating the wrinkled forehead, and if you were in London they would give you the plaster treatment,

which smooths out the skin quickly."

"The rule is to cut the plaster in strips and bind it on the skin, covering each wrinkle with a piece of the plaster so as to hold the skin taut. When the plaster is taken off the skin is at once toughened by drying it with cold water."

"The wrinkle operation is rather popular now in London. It was recently undergone by a woman whose forehead was wrinkled from the side to the temple by straight lines that extended right across it. She consulted her particular face trainer as to how to get rid of them and was told that a surgeon was needed. The result was that she is known as the wrinkle operation."

"The skin of the forehead was slit across the top just where the hair would cover it. There was danger of course that it would destroy the beauty of the delicate hair line, but the risk was taken. The skin of the forehead was tightened and a circle of the wrinkles seem to disappear. The scar was very slight."

"It needs a very delicate hand to perform this operation. The cut must be short and the needle not too deep, or the beauty of the hair line will be lost. There are so many ways of bringing the hair down over the forehead that one hardly knows about the hair line these days. The bangs and forehead curls hide it."

"Circular massage is one of the new fads. The fingertips are wet with cold cream and rubbed round and round in a circle. The wrinkles seem to disappear before it. The trick lies in not bearing too heavily upon the skin. One must touch it very lightly. Otherwise one merely rubs the wrinkles in a great deal deeper."

"Women who are not perfectly sure of the forehead make a great mistake in wearing a wig. They do not know that stick bits of black cotton-plaster on the forehead; others who simply must hang a jewel on the brow, whether it is appropriate or not, and still others who feel that the bangs will do all the work. One and all of these plans are wrong. Decorations simply call attention to the faults of a forehead. It is safer to turn the hair side one's face than to shade the forehead until one is sure."

ABANDONED RAILROADS.

Miles of Track That Have Gone to Rust and the Reason Why.

Records for 1910 show that in the United States there are eighty-one abandoned railroads. From eighteen the rails have been removed and thirty-four are described as "not in operation" or "operations suspended."

In regard to the first class, says the Railroad Man's Magazine, the franchises seem to have expired by disuse, but the tracks are still in evidence; in the second class the company has pulled up stakes and quit, in the third a variety of causes may have contributed to the stopping of wheels.

The shutting down of a railroad may simply mean that it has outlived its usefulness. The neighborhood served by the line may have developed in a fashion that the builders hardly contemplated and with which the rails and rolling stock are incapable of dealing.

Along comes capital and bither gobbles up the little road altogether or puts it out of business by offering the travelling public facilities and accommodations that it cannot attempt to rival. It is really prosperity that shuts down such a road.

Then there have been roads built on the basis of the anticipated boom of a resort, a town or a section. The hope of the boomers not being realized the line goes into the discard.

Again, the initial promises of a mining district are such that a line is built for its

benefit. The district doesn't pan out or goes barren after a time and in consequence the road is abandoned.

The same is true of regions in which the natural resources are many or enticing, notably in those that yield oil. The discovery of lumber roads is inevitable also. The timber States are dotted with the remains of rusty rights of way and almost every year adds to their number.

In many cases electricity has taken the place of steam where the line is a short one and used chiefly for passenger traffic. Sometimes where this has happened it has been found cheaper to build a new road than to tinker with the old one and so the latter is ticketed "abandoned."

On the whole, the list of derelict lines does not indicate that the judgment of modern railroad builders is at fault but rather that the possibilities of the country are increasing, and with them the need for the larger facilities that the abandoned lines could not supply.

By way of example, there is the Hecla and Torch Lake Railroad of Michigan, which was abandoned in spite of the fact that it possessed fifteen locomotives and 800 cars. It was the property of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, and ran from Calumet to Lake Linden chiefly in connection with the transportation of ore. Then the time came when there was no further demand for its services, because there was no more ore, and so it shut down.

The Forest City and Gettysburg Railroad of Pennsylvania was started by a group of promoters, so it is said, as a tryout of the transportation financial possibilities of the tract of country through which it passed. No stocks or bonds were

issued, in which respect it was probably unique. The experiment was a failure and its operation was suspended. It will be reconstructed and lengthened probably.

One of the smallest and perhaps most unprofitable railroads in the United States was the abandoned Kentucky Northern that ran from Sincere, Ky., to a junction with the Louisville and Atlantic Railroad, a distance of eight miles. It was incorporated in May, 1862. From the first it proved to be a drain on the pocketbooks of the stockholders. The surrounding population seems to have disliked the line. Not enough passenger tickets were sold and not enough freight was shipped to pay for the keeping of its one locomotive, its lone passenger coach or its solitary flat car.

In the year ended June, 1908, its operating expenses were \$12,333 and its net earnings \$607. About this time it was concluded that the wisest plan would be to abandon the road.

A whole group of railroads that once had their terminal in Cincinnati have either had their rails taken up or are not in operation, the reason being their practical absorption by nearby large railroads.

Arizona Teachers' Outing. From the Clifton Copper Era. Two schoolmarmes, Miss Greer and Miss Agnew, pulled out of town Tuesday horseback with pack animals to make a 700 mile journey, first to the petrified forest near Holbrook, then to the ice caves of Mt. Baldy, near Flagstaff, and from there to the Grand Cañon of the Colorado. These intrepid ladies go by themselves without male escort, and are well armed to keep off marauders and wild animals. They will return in time for the opening of school in September.